

Fall 1997

Class Action, Fall 1997

Golden Gate University School of Law

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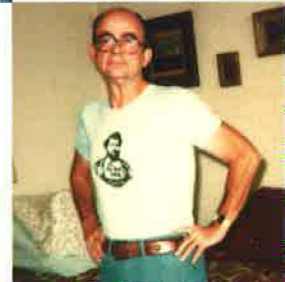
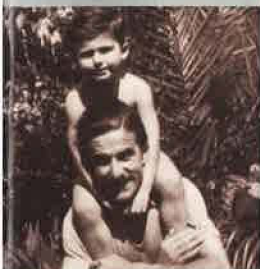
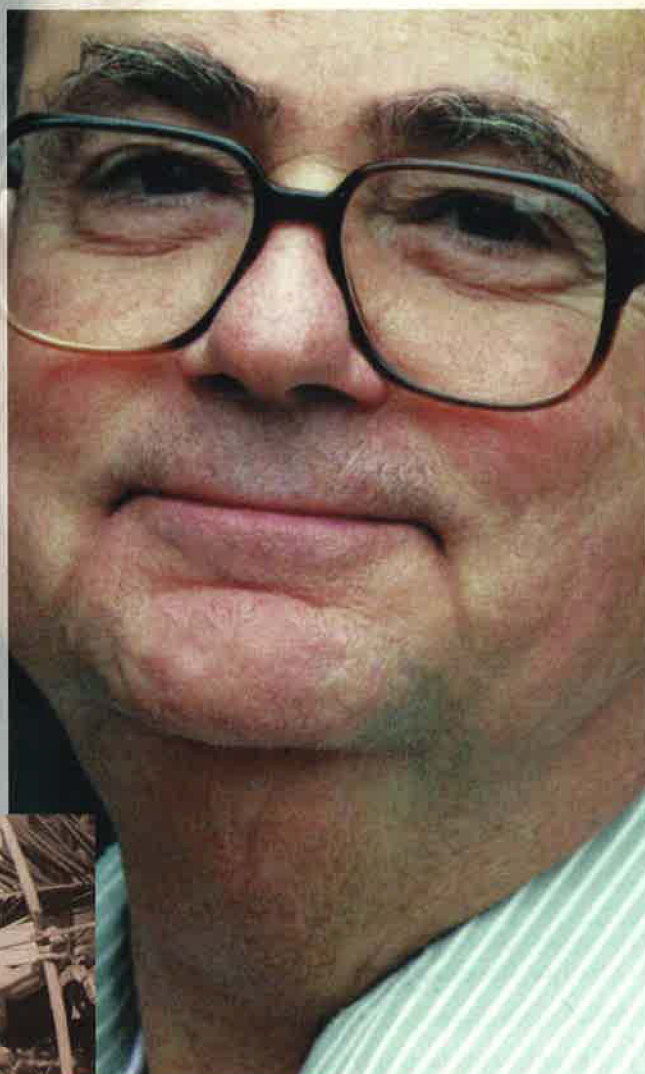
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CLASSAction

FALL 1997

Professor
**MIKE
DEVITO**

Retiring
After 33
Years of
Teaching

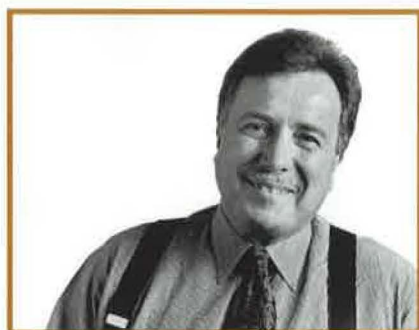


DEAN'S MESSAGE

In the last issue of *ClassAction* I mentioned that change was in the air at the Law School this year. Perhaps it is more appropriate in these times to recognize that change is *always* in the air.

As you can see from the cover story, Professor Mike DeVito is retiring after a long and distinguished career, both inside and outside the classroom. We will miss Mike's presence, his dedication and hard work.

We have other personnel changes as well. This fall we welcomed back Associate Dean Marci Kelly, director of the LL.M. in Taxation Program, from a two-year leave. The publications department, which produces *ClassAction*, the Law School bulletins, and other promotional materials, has grown to two people. Lorri Ungaretti, Publications and Events Director, came to Golden Gate after more than ten years in educational publishing. Graphic Designer Michelle Duval joined us after art directing the local publication *San Francisco Review* for five years.



As described on page 5, the Law School is offering two new programs for J.D.s: the Public Interest Scholars Program and the Integrated Professional Apprenticeship Curriculum (IPAC). I am especially excited about IPAC, which is a cooperative education honors program offering students two full-time, semester-long apprenticeships in the legal field. The first IPAC students will join the Law School in fall 1998 and will be ready for their first apprenticeships in fall 1999. We have also streamlined our combined J.D./M.B.A. Program in cooperation with

Golden Gate's School of Business. Now students can earn both degrees in just three years by taking one full-time summer trimester.

For graduate students we now offer a doctoral degree, the S.J.D. in International Legal Studies. Golden Gate is one of only 27 law schools in the U.S. that have S.J.D. programs approved by the ABA. (Harvard is the only other law school offering the S.J.D. in International Legal Studies.)

Sometimes change is difficult and hard to manage. Fortunately, all of these changes at the Law School have been healthy and have kept us moving in positive directions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "Anthony J. Pagano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "P".

Anthony J. Pagano, Dean

CONTENTS

FEATURES

- 2 Cover Story**
Professor Mike DeVito—Retiring After 33 Years
- 8 The Defenders**
Three GGU Alumni in Criminal Law
- 14 Law School Programs Abroad**
Golden Gate students and alumni in Bangkok, Istanbul, and the Republic of Palau
- 18 Judge Lee Baxter**
A Profile

DEPARTMENTS

- 5 Golden Gate Briefs**
New programs and activities at the Law School
- 11 Alumni Activities**
Reunions and alumni get-togethers
- 12 Class Notes**
What your fellow alumni are doing
- 16 Faculty Notes**
Recent faculty accomplishments

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MIKE DEVITO

RETIRING AFTER 33 YEARS

The thing I'm proudest of in my professional life is my commitment to affirmative action for both women and racial minorities in law," says Professor Mike DeVito, who has had a remarkable career in law school teaching and working to provide greater opportunities for minorities and women. After 33 years of teaching — 28 at Golden Gate — Mike retires at the end of this school year. We met with him to find out more about this extraordinary teacher and committed activist.

Mike DeVito grew up in Los Angeles. He graduated from UC Berkeley in mathematics in 1961 and considered going to graduate school in mathematics, but decided not to go.

"I BELIEVE THAT LAW SCHOOLS CHANGE STUDENTS AND THE ESSENTIAL THING THAT LAW TEACHES IS HOW TO SOLVE HUMAN PROBLEMS."

"I felt it was important to me to do something that dealt with human problems, and I was pretty sure math wasn't it." Several friends suggested law school, and Mike began attending Hastings School of Law in 1961. "I loved law school from the day I walked in until the day I left," he says.

Mike knew from the start, however, that he wanted to teach law, not practice it. How did he know so clearly that he wanted to teach? Back in 1957, when he was drafted, he worked in the Army Education Center, teaching sixth, seventh, and eighth grade math and English to GIs. "This was my first teaching experience," Mike explains. "Overall, I hated being in the military, but that experience made me decide to become a teacher, so I've been grateful to the military ever since."

According to Mike, in the early 1960s, Hastings graduates didn't go into teaching without either practicing for a significant

time or completing graduate work at a prestigious law school. So when he graduated in 1964, Mike went to Harvard to earn an LL.M. "That year at Harvard was extraordinary. They had almost no requirements for the LL.M. It was an intellectual spree. I took whatever interested me — Communist Chinese Law, United Nations Law, all kinds of things."

Harvard also opened the teaching doors. At the end of the year, he was hired by Emory University in Atlanta. "I took my last exam, finished at 4 o'clock, and by 5 o'clock I was on the road to Atlanta. They asked me to teach summer school, so I went from student to professor in two weeks!"

DEVITO THE ACTIVIST

During his five years in Atlanta, Mike began to pursue his interest in "human problems." He became president of the Georgia ACLU and worked on "some wonderful, exciting, and important cases" involving civil rights and free speech. At the time, Georgia had its own major abortion case, similar to *Roe v. Wade*. "I was not one of the attorneys, but the Georgia ACLU brought the case. All of the women who prepared the brief and argued it before the Supreme Court were ACLU people," Mike says proudly.

"The people I worked in Georgia with were remarkable. It's very easy to be a liberal out here. It was not easy to be a liberal in the South in the 1960s. These people laid it on the line. Their lives, their fortunes were at stake. I really cherish having had the opportunity to work with people of this character." (Mike continued his involvement with the ACLU after moving to Berkeley. In the 1970s he was president of the BARK [Berkeley, Albany,

BY LORRI UNGARETTI

Richmond, Kensington] chapter and in the 1980s a member of the Northern California ACLU Board.)

While in Atlanta, Mike was elected president of the Emory chapter of the Association of American University Professors (AAUP). One of AAUP's biggest battles at the time was for the right of university students and professors to protest the war in Vietnam.

In 1965 the dean of Emory asked Mike to develop a program to increase the number of African American students at the law school. "This wouldn't be hard," Mike says, "as Emory had had only three black students in its history, and they were recent."

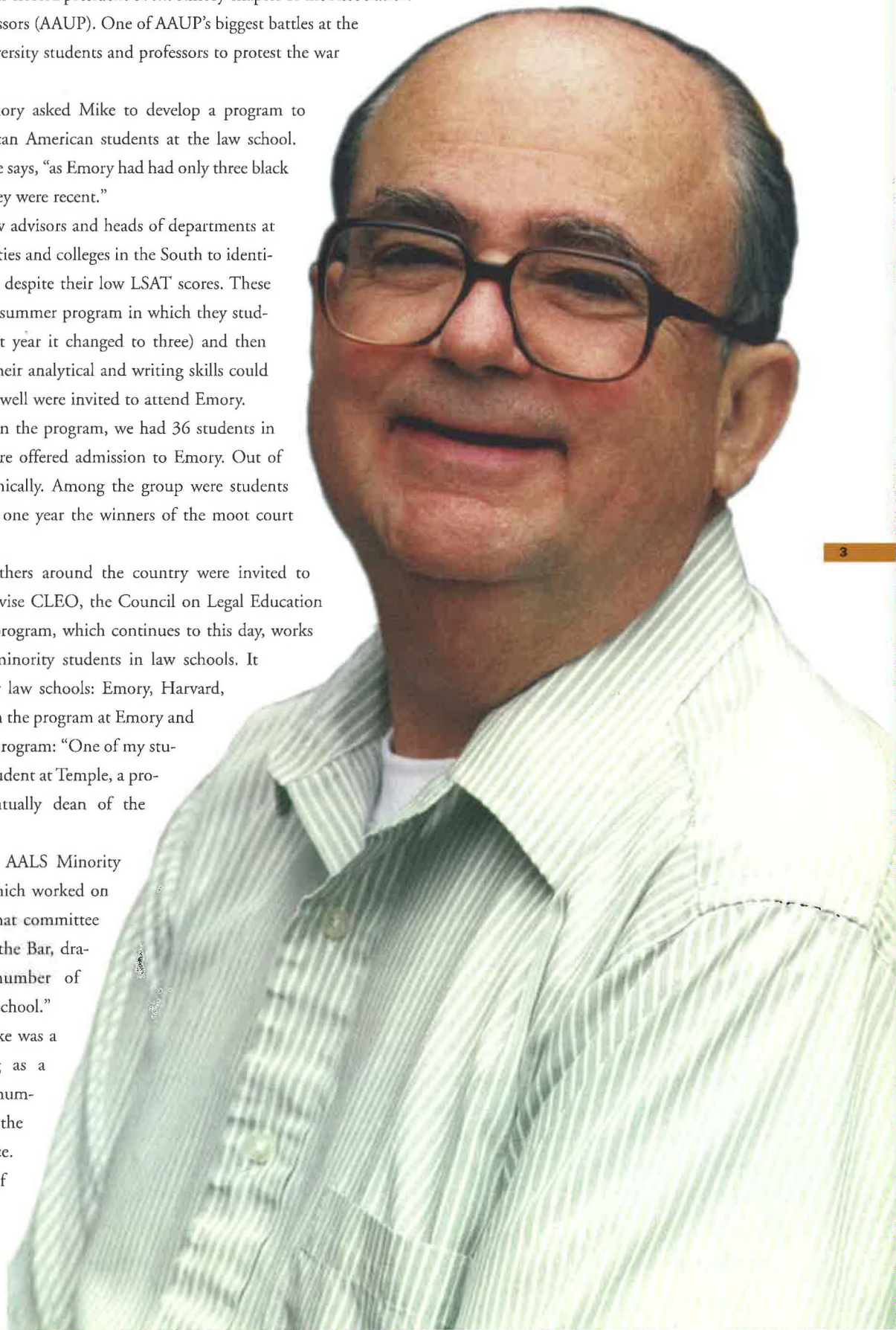
Mike worked with pre-law advisors and heads of departments at predominantly black universities and colleges in the South to identify people who were talented, despite their low LSAT scores. These students attended a 10-week summer program in which they studied one area of law (the next year it changed to three) and then wrote examinations so that their analytical and writing skills could be evaluated. Those who did well were invited to attend Emory.

"Over the three years I ran the program, we had 36 students in the summer program; 25 were offered admission to Emory. Out of that 25 only 1 failed academically. Among the group were students who made Law Review, and one year the winners of the moot court competition."

As a result, Mike and others around the country were invited to Washington D.C. to help devise CLEO, the Council on Legal Education Opportunity. This national program, which continues to this day, works to increase the number of minority students in law schools. It started back in 1968 at four law schools: Emory, Harvard, Denver, and UCLA. Mike ran the program at Emory and testifies to the success of the program: "One of my students went on to become a student at Temple, a professor at Temple, and eventually dean of the Temple Law School."

Mike also served on the AALS Minority Group Study Committee, which worked on affirmative action issues. "That committee changed the composition of the Bar, dramatically increasing the number of minorities succeeding in law school."

For roughly 20 years, Mike was a member of LSAC, serving as a trustee and as a member of a number of committees, including the Minority Affairs Task Force. "That's been the other part of



my academic work of which I am proud: test development and research," he says.

COMING TO GOLDEN GATE

In 1970, Mike left Emory to return to the Bay Area. He believes it was his "great good fortune" to be hired by Golden Gate. During his tenure here he and his students witnessed some of the most remarkable decisions of the

Warren and Burger Courts on abortion, flag burning, Vietnam war protests and free speech, and much more. An entire generation of law students took Constitutional Law with Mike. Some years he taught Con Law to as many as two-thirds of the Law School's second-year class.

"My strength as a teacher is to take material that is difficult for students and make it clear, to organize, to put together in an orderly fashion material that to some students does not seem connected."

Mike has always admired Golden Gate students and respected their capacities. "People come to law school for a bunch of reasons and choose to practice law for a whole bunch of other reasons. I believe that law schools change students and, to me, the essential thing that law teaches is how to solve human problems. Most of our students practice law, and that's fine; that's what they want to do, and they're good at it. But even if they don't practice law, they can use the legal training to solve real problems. That's invaluable, no matter the direction you take."

RESPECT FOR GOLDEN GATE

Mike is proud of working at Golden Gate Law School because of its stand on many issues. He cites the Law School's willingness to face critical issues and believes that it has been on the forefront of issues confronting legal education, such as the lack of representation of minorities, women, gays, and lesbians. "We were one of the first law schools in the country to have a female dean," he observes. "We were known early on as a school that accepted and encouraged gays and lesbians both in the student body and on the faculty. I've always been proud of that."

"I've always had a profound respect for our faculty. They are an extraordinary group of people, the best teaching faculty I've ever seen. And the younger faculty we're getting are so terrific that if a tenured faculty member begins to doubt whether he or she is still teaching well, it's time to get out because the young people are so good."



Professor Mike DeVito with Dean Tony Pagano

BEYOND THE LAW

Mike lives in Berkeley with Pat, his wife of 43 years, also a graduate of Golden Gate Law School (1974). After practicing law for several years, she chose to move on to other pursuits, earning a Master's in Public Administration and a Master's in gerontology. She does volunteer work with the Older Women's League (OWL), Breast Cancer

Prevention, and elder abuse prevention.

The DeVitos have two adult children. Mark, 31, lives in Berkeley and works to further a career as a graphic artist. He was married on October 11 of this year, with some participants dressed in medieval garb. Lisa, 29, graduated from UC Berkeley in medieval literature. She taught English in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, 1995-96, and now lives in Oakland.

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

Mike has no shortage of ideas for what to do when he stops teaching full-time. He hikes "whenever and wherever I can," and loves to play blackjack and the poker machines in Lake Tahoe. He and his wife also love to travel. They have been on five of the world's seven continents, especially enjoying Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Japan, Africa, and Europe. Mike says that he hopes to hike to the base camp on Mount Everest, see Iguacu Falls in South America, and see Sutherland Falls in New Zealand.

Mike hopes to return to school to study music theory and geology, two distinctly different subjects that "have always fascinated me but that I can't study well alone." He has seen many types of geological formations in his travels, and he hopes to learn more about them through study.

Mike also plans to continue his commitment to helping others. He has always volunteered "intellectually" by working on ACLU committees, writing briefs, etc., "but I'd like to do simpler things like shop or run errands for people who can't. I've had my intellectual strokes; I need to feel worthwhile as a concerned human being." The impression one gets when looking at Mike's life is that he has certainly proven himself to be just that — a concerned human being. ☐

A retirement luncheon in April is being planned. For information, please contact Debra Holcomb via e-mail at dhholcomb@ggu.edu or by phone at (415) 442-6602.

NEW PROGRAMS AT THE LAW SCHOOL

We are now accepting applications for a new program that starts in fall 1998. An alternative to our standard J.D. curriculum, the **Integrated Professional Apprenticeship Curriculum (IPAC)** is an honors program through which students integrate classroom theory, skills, values, and practice by participating in two full-time, semester-long Professional Apprenticeships.

This fall we admitted two students to our new **Public Interest Law Scholars Program**, which provides scholarships, a summer employment stipend, and mentors to students planning a career in public interest law.

Golden Gate has established a joint J.D./Ph.D. program in Law and Clinical Psychology with the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto. The program is one of only five such programs in the country. Students take courses at both institutions and after completing the program are eligible to take the Bar exam and be licensed as psychologists.

Golden Gate University School of Law now offers the S.J.D., a doctoral degree, in International Legal Studies. Golden Gate is one of only 27 ABA-approved law schools in the U.S. to offer an S.J.D. (Harvard is the only other U.S. law school that offers the degree in International Legal Studies.)



In April, as part of a broad U.S. visit, the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Justice sent 21 attorneys from provinces throughout China to Golden Gate Law School to study the American Legal System.

Professor Rod Fong arranged the program and acted as host. In July Dean Pagano and Associate Dean Sompong Sucharitkul met with some of these same attorneys in Xian and Beijing, China. In October members of another Chinese delegation visited Golden Gate. We hope that these visits are part of a long-term cooperative venture between the two nations.

5



On January 24, 1997, South African Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs spoke at Golden Gate University on the new South African Constitution. Justice Sachs is shown here (center) with Professor Allan Brotsky (left) and U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson.

OFFICES RETURN HOME

After six years at 49 Stevenson Street, the Law School's faculty and administrative offices returned to the GGU campus in mid-July. Faculty and staff moved out of the university in 1991 and occupied offices high up in a commercial office building. Now most offices are on the second and third floors at 536 Mission Street.

"It's great to be back where the students are," says Associate Dean Cathy Glaze. "It makes us more accessible to them and more involved in the day-to-day activities of the school."

Alumni and Law Career Services are close by, at 62 Mission Street, in the same building as the new GGU bookstore.

GOLDEN GATE STUDENTS PUT FAIRY TALE VILLAIN ON TRIAL



On September 4, Professor Bernie Segal's Mock Trial class held a trial to prosecute Leonard Woolf, accused of murdering Ida J. Grandma Riding and "dallying" with her granddaughter, Rhoda Riding-Hood. Third-year students Andrew Falick and Heidi Larsen portrayed Leonard Woolf and Rhoda Riding-Hood, respectively. Alum Brian Soriano, '96, was judge, and other third-year students were attorneys and prosecutors.

Professor Segal decided to use fairy tales for his mock trial cases to help students learn the art of storytelling. "Litigators must understand that just having a pile of facts on your side isn't enough,"

he explains. "Human events are best understood if you tell them as narration that explains what happened." The attorneys and witnesses in this mock trial were encouraged to describe the events as stories that listeners would remember. The prosecuting attorney's opening statement included the most famous of all fairy tale lines: "Once upon a time..."

Professor Segal is also planning to convert "Hansel and Gretel" into a child endangerment case, "The Three Little Pigs" into a wrongful-death action against a contractor for building unsafe houses, and "Jack and the Beanstalk" into a juvenile delinquency proceeding against Jack for stealing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

GGU JOINS PRO BONO STUDENTS AMERICA

Golden Gate is one of the first law schools in northern California to join Pro Bono Students America (PBSA). PBSA maintains a national database on the Internet to assist students looking for paid and volunteer public interest employment opportunities. Other northern California law school members include Boalt, Stanford, and U.C. Davis. GGU students can access PBSA through the Law Career Services Office.



LAW LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS

The Law Library is now more attractive and functional than ever. Just before the start of the school year, the library was outfitted with new cherry-wood chairs, tables, and carrels with electrical and data jacks for laptop use. The computer lab has 20 powerful new computers loaded with Windows95 and Office97. Less than a year ago, the library got new carpeting and lighting.

WELCOME TO TWO NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Helen Hartnell has joined the International Legal Studies Program as a Visiting Associate Professor. She received her J.D. from the University of Illinois College of Law and then spent five years teaching, studying, and practicing law in Germany. She then practiced law in the U.S. for three years.

Since 1988 she has taught at a variety of law schools including Tulane, ELTE Law School and Central European University in Budapest, Harvard, and the American University of Armenia. Professor Hartnell is actively involved with the American Society of International Law and the International Law Association.



Constance Hood joins the faculty as Lecturer, teaching Appellate Advocacy and Writing and Research. She earned her J.D. from Pepperdine University and LL.M. from Georgetown. From 1989 to 1994, she was Associate Attorney at Goldberg, Stinnett, Meyers & Davis in Francisco. In the early 1990s, she was an adjunct professor here at the Law School. From 1995-97, she was a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas School of Law, where she taught legal research and writing, and judged school-sponsored moot court competitions.

CLINIC NEWS

Environmental Law and Justice Clinic (ELJC)

► The ELJC, the Santa Clara Public Interest Law Foundation, and the Alviso community achieved a settlement in their suit against San Jose's decision to allow recycling and dumping at a landfill in a small poor bayside community. The \$600,000 settlement will help provide residents with a community center, elementary school education programs, and adult job training, as well as with new legal protection against dust, traffic, and environmental degradation.

► The ELJC has been participating in an exchange program organized by the ABA's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative. Nellie Romonova, head of an environmental public interest organization and professor of environmental law at Irkutsk State University, is planning to start an environmental law clinic. This past summer she came to Golden Gate and spent a few weeks meeting with ELJC attorneys and students.

In September and October, Veronica Eady, clinical scholar in residence at GGU, visited Irkutsk to consult with Romonova and others on setting up their clinic.

Veronica Eady, Nellie Romonova, and ELJC co-directors Alan Ramo and Cliff Rechtschaffen



► PG&E is seeking to sell its fossil-fueled power plants, two of which are in the low-income Hunter's Point district in San Francisco. The California Public Utilities Commission proposed selling off the plants, then doing environmental reviews. However, Golden Gate's ELJC worked with Berkeley's Environmental Law Community Clinic on behalf of the Southeast Alliance for Environmental Justice and successfully convinced the CPUC to do environmental reviews prior to the proposed sales.

Women's Employment Rights Clinic (WERC)

► As co-counsel with the Employment Law Center, WERC is representing plaintiffs in a class action equal pay/sex discrimination suit filed in U.S. District Court against a statewide retail store chain. The lawsuit contends that male sales associates earn higher salaries than female associates.

► WERC student Joanna Opperman, class of '98, represented an elderly client who had worked from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily as a cook in a residential facility. In a wage claim hearing, the client was awarded almost \$10,000 in unpaid overtime wages.

► WERC received a \$5,000 grant this past summer from the Bernard E. and Alba Witkin Charitable Trust.

► In May, Professors Marci Seville and Maria Blanco, along with WERC students, published *Know Your Rights: A Guide to Employment Law for California Workers*, a handbook for employees with legal questions regarding their employment. The handbook has been distributed to many legal services organizations and public libraries. 📖

FRED KOREMATSU SPEAKS AT GGU

Fred Korematsu (shown below with Professor Mike DeVito and Dean Pagano) is a U.S. born Japanese-American who was among the thousands of people of Japanese ancestry who were detained in relocation centers during World War II. In the case *Korematsu v. U.S.*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld his conviction for violating the military order of detention. The court ruled that, although racial classification of persons was constitutionally impermissible, due to "pressing public necessity" during war, Korematsu's detention was constitutional. Korematsu and thousands of detention camp survivors received some recompense when Congress in the late 1980s passed a bill recognizing the injustice.

On February 27, Fred Korematsu spoke at Golden Gate University. Now in his seventies, he treated the audience with an amazingly lighthearted retelling of his misadventures as a young man trying to make his way and serve his country by working in industry during wartime. His sense of puzzlement, and then indignation at the humiliations he and his family endured, brought history to life. The audience received a first-hand account of what it felt like to have one's life completely disordered by the power of a government that allowed no exceptions to its draconian policy.



The Defenders

For many years, under the guidance of Professor Bernie Segal, Golden Gate has trained criminal defense lawyers. Many students pursuing this area of law back in the late 1960s and early 1970s were political activists, and many carried that activism into their professional careers. We see different approaches, but a similar commitment in the lives of the three alumni profiled here: Arnold Klein, '71; Joe Altschule, '72, and Jan Lecklikner, '78. Arnie's activism in law school almost prevented him from graduating; as an attorney, he spent years fighting for the rights of rape victims. Joe shares his 25 years as a defense attorney with effective political activity, especially in the area of domestic violence. As an undergraduate, Jan co-founded a community program for drug users and a reproduction rights agency for women; now she works tirelessly in San Francisco as a deputy public defender. Each is a criminal defense attorney, but each has a different story to tell.

ARNOLD L. KLEIN

Class of 1971

“**Y**OUR ARNIE, MY NAME IS HONOR KLEIN.’ I couldn’t believe those were my first words in a courtroom! Where can you go but UP from there?” Arnie Klein, '71, sat back in his overstuffed chair and gave a hearty belly laugh remembering the occasion.

Indeed, he has gone up from that first courtroom encounter more than a quarter century ago. The telephone rings in his comfortable office on the 18th floor of a modern office suite in Beverly Hills; he jams the earphone between his cheek and his shoulder. His hands never stop opening mail. He interrupts his phone call to answer a buzz from his secretary, who says that Leo

is here to see him. Arnie waves him in. His morning begins.

Arnie Klein began his life in Buffalo, New York. The grandson of Jewish immigrants, he began work at the age of 13 delivering meat from a kosher shop owned by his father and grandfather. His best pair of pants were torn at both knees. From the time he began to talk, he spoke with a pronounced lisp. Life was tough for the scruffy youngster, and he determined to cut a better deal for himself than what he’d been given so far. He decided to be a teacher.

The first of his family to obtain a college degree, Arnie graduated from the State University College at Buffalo. When told his speech impediment would preclude him

from being an effective educator, he changed majors and graduated with a degree in social work. Thrust into what was then called a “hard core area” of Buffalo, Arnie became a feisty defender of those he saw as victims of social injustice. He decided to go to law school.

Arnie arrived in San Francisco in 1968 with his wife, a speech therapist who taught him to talk without a lisp. Near the top of his class after his first year, he appealed to then-dean Lani Bader and was granted a much-needed full-tuition scholarship. A year later, his scholarship was reduced by half when Arnie, along with several of his cohorts, “stopped the school” as a protest of the U.S. bombing of Cambodia. Although he refused to take his finals, he graduated in 1971, passed the Bar, and set out to make something of himself.

Arnie joined the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office as the first sexual assault prosecutor in the city. At the same time, he lectured on rape trauma at the UCLA Medical Center, established the first rape crisis unit at Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, and helped reverse the way rape victims were treated. He was still fighting for the underdog but, after nine years, the repetitiveness of his work made him fearful of becoming “a brain dead prosecutor.” He decided to start a private practice in criminal defense.

Although he has represented well over 5,000 clients in his years as a criminal defense attorney, there is one case that Arnie will never forget — nor will almost anyone else who remembers Friday, July 23, 1982. In those early morning hours, during the filming of *Twilight Zone: The Movie*, actor Vic Morrow and two young children were killed by the main rotor blades of a helicopter sent out of control by the concussions of special effects explosions. After a melodramatic nine-month trial, Arnie’s client, Special Effects Coordinator Paul Stewart, along with four other defendants, was found not guilty.



JOE ALTSCHULE

Class of 1972

“UNLESS YOU HAVE TWO HEADS AND WEIGH 800 POUNDS, YOU’VE GOT THE JOB. Can you be here tomorrow?” Those were the words, says Joe Altschule, ’72, that brought him to the Public Defender’s office in the sleepy central valley town of Visalia where, he had been told by an enthusiastic classmate, that he could try felonies right away. After a brief court appearance in Oakland the next morning, Joe jumped in his car and headed for Visalia — and hasn’t looked back.

For the next six years, Joe came to know the Tulare County Public Defender’s office well as he represented thousands of clients in all stages of criminal proceedings. Before he left the office as senior felony attorney in 1980, he had tried over 150 jury cases, more than half of which were for felonies. In just six short years, he participated in 15 homicide cases, including some involving the death penalty.

Without a doubt, his most memorable case involved a young woman who had, in fact, killed her husband. As he prepared his defense, Joe realized that the defendant had truly been a battered wife. In securing her acquittal of the murder charge, Joe convinced the court to allow an expert witness to describe — for the first time in the history of the California judicial system — the “battered wife syndrome” as a component of self defense.

As a result of that precedent-setting case, Joe testified in October 1978 as a principal witness before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of pending domestic violence legislation. Just ten months later he again appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of AB 546, spousal rape legislation. He was the only male criminal defense attorney to testify as an invited witness in support of this measure.

Not surprisingly, soon thereafter Joe received another special invitation. The Visalia Business and Professional Women’s Association asked him to become a member. He proudly displays on his waiting room wall the plaque the Association pre-

sented to him in 1984 when he received its Golden Nike Award “for promoting the upward mobility of women.” In 1988, he became the Association’s first and to date only male president.

That plaque, however, is only one of dozens that Joe has received in appreciation of his volunteer efforts on behalf of many community associations, including the Visalia Community Hospital, Legal Services Corporation, Visalia Police Officers Business Organization, Cutler-Orosi Unified School District, and Tulare/Kings Counties Legal Services, Inc.

Genuinely drawn to stimulating discussion on a variety of issues, Joe was featured for 3½ years on “Both Sides Now,” a local point-counterpoint televised political talk show, and he still writes a semi-weekly column on political issues for the Visalia *Times-Delta*. His column reflects his special perspective as a political activist for more than 20 years, including serving as chair of the Tulare County Democratic Central committee from 1987 to 1995.

Along with his political appointments and activities, and hundreds of hours spent each year as a volunteer in his community, Joe is a senior partner in private practice at Wilson, Altschule & Wittig, and is spearheading his class’s 25-year reunion gift to the Law School.

Joe’s wife Linda is a force in the Tulare County medical community as the owner of Visalia Physical Therapy. Joe and Linda have been married 31 years and have two adult children. As two people who left the Bay Area in 1972 with plans to get a few years’ experience and then return, Joe and Linda have stayed in Visalia for 25 years and have no desire to leave their adopted home.

BY SUSAN WORTH



JAN LECKLIKNER

Class of 1978

WHEN JAN LECKLIKNER, '78, STARTED WORKING as an attorney, she looked at each opposing attorney and wondered, "How can I beat you?" Now she asks, "How can we do something that's healing for all involved?"

Jan has come a long way from the angry activist she was in the turbulent '60s and '70s. Attending UC Davis from 1967 to 1972, she was active socially and politically. She protested the war in Vietnam. At the age of 19, she co-founded Diogenes House, a community program for young drug users and, two years later, co-founded Alternatives in Birth Control, an agency that provided birth control and abortion information to women.

Originally, Jan wasn't interested in going to law school. After graduating from Davis, she became a "hippie potter," selling her wares on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. After a year, she began working at a battered women's shelter. She found that she liked being an advocate but knew that to be effective she needed more training, so in 1975 she started law school at Golden Gate.

While in law school, Jan applied to be an intern in the Alameda County Public Defender's Office. In her interview she made it clear that she didn't want to become a public defender. She was concerned about "burnout, becoming cynical, and having no life." They hired her anyway, and she interned for two years. Did she burn out, get cynical, and have no life? "There were ups and downs, but I never burned out," she says, and when she graduated, she went into public defending.

Jan spent 2½ years in San Diego, 2½ years in Contra

Costa County, and has been a deputy public defender in San Francisco for 13 years. In every office she has worked she's become part of a group of women lawyers. In San Diego they met in the basement of a hotel. In Contra Costa County other lawyers called them "the Broad Squad." She was also involved in the formation of Women Defenders, an organization of women criminal defense attorneys that will soon be statewide.

"People who do criminal defense law see themselves as aware," Jan says, "but there was a lot of consternation in California Attorneys for Criminal Justice when Women Defenders was first organized." She explains that fifteen years ago, most of the CACJ Board members were men. CACJ responded to the formation of Women Defenders by creating committee co-chair positions and appointing women to them, infusing the organization with women at the upper levels. Now the board is half women. Based on her efforts as co-chair of the juvenile committee, Jan was asked to join the Board. She later co-chaired a committee to eliminate bias.

Jan spent four years in San Francisco's juvenile court. For the past three years, she has been back at the Hall of Justice handling felony cases from narcotics to murder. She loves the work because "on the one hand, the kinds of rights we have are paramount, and it's important to maintain the strength of the Constitution." But the work also appeals to the activist in her. "I now get paid for the kind of work I used to get in trouble for — I call cops liars and stand up to the government."

Jan says the work is harder than it's ever been, but feels that she can accomplish more than when she started working in law. "Part is the uniqueness of San Francisco, and part is me. I've grown older, and I believe I'm taken more seriously. But also, I used to constantly be in the adversarial role. Now I try to speak to the humanity of all the participants."

Jan's approach to law today may be different than it was twenty years ago, but her interest in alternative approaches has not changed. In June 1997 she was named president of the Criminal Trial Lawyers Association of Northern California. For her installation dinner she chose Reverend Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church to be the speaker and asked Karuk Elder Charlie Tom, a Medicine Man, to do the invocation. At the dinner she honored earlier women presidents of the CTLA and thirteen people in San Francisco who are "not lawyers but who make a tremendous difference in our work." ■

BY LORRI UNGARETTI

10



CLASS OF 1971 REUNION

Members of the class of 1971 met at the law school last October for their first reunion in 25 years. Thanks to Richard Lambert, Lawrence G. Olson, William P. Lucke, Eldon L. Sellers, Vincent Courney, Jr., Sally Galway, Theodore J. Schroeder, George C. Rothwell, Judith R. Gordon, R. Kent Brewer and Harold A. Parker for their combined contributions of more than \$1,500 toward the purchase of a class gift.



CLASS OF 1972 REUNION

The class of 1972 met at the St. Francis Yacht Club in June to celebrate its 25th Reunion. Forty-eight graduates, faculty, and guests were on hand to reflect on the years since their graduation and update one another on all the changes in their lives. Many thanks to Conrad Breece and Al Moresi for their outstanding organization of this wonderful reunion. *Left to right: Steven Landes, Lani Bader, Marvin Rous, Al Moresi, Conrad Breece, Marjorie Goldblatt, Joe Altschule, Michael Ito, Sandra Bovetti Snyder, Michael Hannon.*

SAN DIEGO STATE BAR RECEPTION

A small group of alumni gathered with Dean Anthony Pagano at the San Diego Hyatt during the California State Bar Annual Meeting in September. Dean Pagano visited with our graduates and updated them on the progress at the Law School.



GOLDEN GATE MEETS IN THE BIG APPLE

While attending a conference in New York City this past May, Dean Anthony Pagano and Assistant Dean Sue Schechter held a reception for area alumni. Special thanks to Richard Kestenbaum for his assistance in coordinating this event. *Left to right: Matthew Menes, '96; Richard Kestenbaum, '84; Sue Schechter; Katrine Levin '95; Andrew Bagon, '84.*

THE CLASS OF 1993

Members of the class of 1993 held an informal reunion in February at the Thirsty Bear Pub in San Francisco. More than twenty members of the class gathered to visit with their friends and catch up on the past few years. Thanks to Miles Dolinger and Robert Tefferteller for putting this event together.



SAN FRANCISCO ABA RECEPTION

Professor Robert Calhoun, recipient of the 1997 John A. Gorfinkel Outstanding Instructor Award, visits

with 1995 graduate Mark Burton during the reception held in conjunction with the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco. More than seventy law school graduates and faculty attended the reception with alumni from as far away as New York City.

IN MEMORIAM

Alan C. Batchelder, '57
Reginald Littrell, '63
Leo Paoli, '65
Susan M. Borton, '77
Elissa C. Elliott, '92

1960s

Norman Russell Ascherman (68) is a dental and legal specialist in private practice in San Francisco. He was recently elected a Fellow of the American College of Legal Medicine.

1970s

Laurence B. Donoghue (70) is now the deputy district attorney in Los Angeles.

Kathryn Ringgold (70) was named the September 1997 Volunteer of the Month by the Bar Association of San Francisco. She volunteers for Volunteer Legal Services Program Family Law Clinic, Legal Services for Children, and Court Appointed Special Advocates where she coordinates services for foster children, their foster parents, attorneys, social workers, schools, therapists, and nurses.

Jessie Serna (70) has had a private law practice in San Jose, CA for 15 years and recently opened an office in Stockton, CA. She successfully argued cases before the California Supreme Court and made case law in the area of medical malpractice and emotional distress.

The Class of 1972 held its 25th Reunion in June. Please see the photo on page 11.

Edward C.Y. Lau (73) is now serving as the chair of the International Practice section of the American Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Lau recently returned to campus to present a program on International Law for Golden Gate's Law Career Services Brown Bag Lunch Series.

Hon. Lee Baxter (74) received the 1997 Golden Gate University Amicus Award. The award is given annually as an expression of special esteem, appreciation, and gratitude to a person whose dedication and efforts have resulted in the most significant contributions to the University's resources and, thereby, to its educational capabilities and services. (A profile of Judge Baxter appears on page 18.)

Randall W. Harper (75) was married in Las Vegas on February 14, 1997. He is a real estate and family law attorney in Walnut Creek.

Elaine M. Andrews (76) has been appointed Presiding Judge for the Third Judicial District in south central Alaska.

Nancy Cherney (77) heads up the new Novato, CA office of Dixon and Jessup. She joined the firm after 10 years as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for San Francisco's Capital Guaranty Corporation and Capital Guaranty Insurance Company. She will continue practicing business, corporate, securities, and insurance law.

Arlene Kostant (77) has been serving as the 1997 chair of the Family Law Section of the Bar Association of San Francisco. She began her family law practice in 1978 and started working with the Family Law Section's Executive Committee in 1982.

Hon. Marilyn Teeter (77) was invested as an immigration judge for the U.S. Immigration Court in a public ceremony on May 9, 1997 in San Francisco.

Robert (Rob) Edwards (78) joined the Port of Oakland as the management consultant for business development and corporate alliances. Mr. Edwards' prior assignments include military service in the U.S. Airforce, positions at an international engineering-construction firm and the Electric Power Research Institute, and government service at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Jan Lecklikner (78) has been named president of the Criminal Trial Attorneys Association of Northern California. (A profile of her appears on page 10.)

Martin Staubus (78) returned to the Bay Area in late 1996 after spending the last ten years in Washington, DC. He is currently the vice president for human resources at Bon Appetit Management Company, a contract food service company based in Menlo Park.

Shelley A. Gordon (79) was named the pro bono Provider of the Month for November 1996 by the Alternative Dispute Resolution program of the Alameda County Bar Association.

Michael J. Horton (79) announces that an on-line book, *DEROS: A Year in Vietnam*, based on his Army tour of duty during the 1967-68 war years, can be found on the Internet at www.bookaisle.com. Click on "Browse Our Books," then click on "Adventure."

Janet Mangini (79) is celebrating winning the nationally known case *Mangini v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*. Ms. Mangini filed the suit in 1991, charging that R.J. Reynolds violated state law by unfairly targeting minors with its Joe Camel cartoon figure. In the final settlement, the tobacco company agreed to withdraw Joe Camel from its advertising campaigns.

Ellen M. Singer (79) married physicist Dr. Gary Rondeau in November 1996. Living in Eugene, OR, the couple has three children: Ellen's daughter Elizabeth and Gary's daughters Amanda and Laura. Ellen writes, "Gary and I both have our businesses headquartered at home, which enables us to spend more time with our daughters, dog, cat, fish, bees, and organic garden. We spend our 'lunch hour' in the hot tub! My civil law practice consists primarily of contract work for other attorneys, appellate work and personal injury. Eugene is a delightful area, 'bicycle haven,' with lots of active and cultural opportunities. Come visit us!"

1980s

Kathleen Quenneville (80) joined Mechanics Bank as its first in-house counsel; she also serves as vice president. Her offices are in the bank's headquarters in Richmond, CA. Her areas of responsibility include contracts, human resources law, regulatory compliance, and trust law. Previously she was associate general counsel at the Bank of California.

Mark Cohen (81) was appointed to the City of Fremont Planning Commission in January 1996.

Let us know what you're doing. Fill in the form on page 21 and fax or mail it to us.

Keith D. Davis (81) was appointed to the San Bernardino County Superior Court by California Governor Pete Wilson on March 12, 1997. Prior to his appointment, he was a partner in the law firm of Wilson, Borror, Dunn & Davis. He is married and resides in San Bernardino.

Alice Philipson (81), co-founder of the Aids Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), received the organization's Clint Hockenberry Award last December.

Ara H. Shirinian (81) moved to southern Nevada to form the Law Offices of Ara Shirinian, where he will continue to specialize in construction defect, professional liability, and personal injury claims.

Thomas A. Behrendt (82) is the treasurer of the National Association for Rights Protection and Advocacy. He is also a board member of Connecticut's Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness.

Nancy Cherney (LL.M. 82)
See her listing in 1977.

Patrick J. Coughlin, (83) of Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach, LLP and the lead trial lawyer for *Mangini v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company*, is celebrating winning the nationally known case. In the final settlement, R.J. Reynolds agreed to withdraw the familiar Joe Camel cartoon character from its advertising campaigns.

Susan M. Gibbons (83) was awarded the Bar Association of San Francisco's Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service commendation for contributing her legal services to low-income women, children, and immigrants. Her work was in the areas of family law, unlawful detainer, and political asylum. She is also a recipient of the State Bar of California's Wiley W. Manual

award for voluntary provision of legal services to the poor.

Susan King (83) has been appointed commissioner at the Family Law Center in San Francisco.

Seth P. Chazin (84) recently celebrated his first anniversary as an associate with the criminal defense firm Chase & Miller in Albany, CA.

Daniel Dell'Osso (84) is working with Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Echeverria in the area of plaintiff personal injury law.

Grant D. Green (84) joined the Boston-based firm Fish & Richardson as a biotechnology patent attorney. He is working in the company's Menlo Park office.

Richard Kestenbaum (84) recently formed his own law firm in New York City, Kestenbaum, Dannenberg & Klein, LLP, where he continues his practice as a business attorney in a general practice firm with a strong litigation emphasis. He also recently volunteered with the Law School's Admissions Office during a recent recruiting program in New York City and served as host of a reception for New York City area law alumni. (A photo is on page 11.)

Steven Solomon (84) has been a solo practitioner in Burlingame since 1985, focusing on individual and small business consumer disputes that involve breach of warranty ("lemon law"), credit, employment, building contractors, fraud/misrepresentation, and breach of contract. He has been a court-appointed judicial arbitrator since 1990.

Joshua McClelland West (84) is a member of the Board of Directors of the American Lung Association of the Redwood Empire.

Robert "Buzz" Hines, (85) a partner at Landels, Ripley &

Diamond since 1992, has been selected to oversee the firm's environmental department.

Gemmie Jones (85) is a senior central director implementing the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Senior Services Plan. She is president of the San Francisco Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly. San Francisco's Richmond district is home for Gemmie and her daughter, Tiana, who is a freshman at Convent of the Sacred Heart High School.

Stephen M. Mackouse (85) represents tenants and plaintiffs in civil litigation as a sole practitioner in San Francisco. One of his cases was profiled in *The Recorder* on September 5.

Margaret Crow Rosenfeld (86) has left her position as director of the Public Interest Law Program at the Public Interest Clearinghouse after two and a half years. She plans to spend more time with her family at their home on the Russian River. She continues her appointed appellate practice, specializing in the area of juvenile dependency. In addition, she is returning to teaching Indian Law at local law schools, including the spring 1998 semester at Golden Gate.

Patricia L. (Trish) Hastings (86) was admitted to the Florida Bar in October 1996. She has been self-employed since 1991 and is active with the Human Rights Task Force of Florida, a lesbian/gay civil rights organization.

Raymond C. Wieser, Jr. (86) has been the commissioner for both the Municipal and Superior Courts in Solano County since October 1995. Previously, he worked as a prosecutor for the Solano County District Attorney's Office for seven years.

Kathleen S. Farley (87) and her husband have moved into a new home in San Ramon, CA. She is

happily "at work" at home with her three children: Shane, Kevin, and Alexandria.

Lenore Gerard (87) is a health law attorney in private practice in San Francisco. Last year she represented Legal Assistance to the Elderly as co-counsel on *Grijalva v. Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services*. In a landmark decision last December, the Federal District Court of Arizona ruled that HMOs must provide enrollees enough information to challenge denials of care and to appeal the decision "in a meaningful time."

Jimmy L. Hom (87) has changed his name to James Yuanxin Li. An attorney with the San Francisco office of Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, he has recently qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales.

Howard Lasky (88) has become a partner in the San Francisco firm Howard, Rice, Nemerovski, Canady, Falk & Rabkin.

Laurel S. Lindenbaum (88) was appointed to the Bay Municipal Court Bench in Contra Costa County by California Governor Pete Wilson in October 1996.

Peter Mastromonaco (88) is a partner at the San Francisco firm Steefel, Levitt & Weiss.

Mark Anderson (89) has been named partner of the firm Farella Braun & Martel in San Francisco.

Larry F. Estrada (89) moved into a new law office in San Jose in March. His private practice continues to be primarily labor and employment law, but he is expanding into business law. He was recently elected vice chair of the Board of Directors of Los Lupe-os de San José, Inc., a Mexican folklore institute. He is

continued on page 20

OUR SIXTH SUMMER IN BANGKOK

Directed by Program Director Sompong Sucharitkul, the Summer Program in Bangkok, Thailand, went well for the sixth successive year. Fifty students participated in the program, including six new LL.M. students from Thailand, six law students from Canada, seventeen Golden Gate LL.M. students, and twenty students from fifteen other law schools. One practitioner from Myanmar and one from Vietnam were sponsored by the law offices of Chandler and Thong-Ek, an established international law firm in Thailand.

Five courses were offered. Current International Legal Problems and International Contracts were well attended by more than thirty students. Smaller classes of about a dozen students each included International Environmental Law, Thai Legal System, and Regional Organizations.

Participants took a day trip to Sam Pran, and another day they visited the Attorney General's Office, the Law Courts, the Ministry of Justice, and Thailand's new Arbitration Center. Participants also spent one afternoon discussing bilateral trade issues between Thailand and the U.S. in the inner chamber of the Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade, and interacting with the private and public sectors in the business circles of Thailand discussing new developments within the framework of the old GATT and the new WTO.

The program culminated with a banquet hosted by the Tourist Authority of Thailand at Sala Rim Nam on the bank of the Chao Phya River, providing a memorable ending to another successful summer law study program in Thailand.

OUR FIRST SUMMER PROGRAM IN TURKEY

This past summer Golden Gate Law School kicked off an inaugural summer program in International Law in Istanbul, Turkey. Seven Golden Gate law students joined ten students from other American law schools as well as eleven Turkish students from the University of Marmara as they lived and studied on the University of Marmara campus on the Asian side of the Bosphorus in Istanbul. Instructors included such nationally renowned names as Richard Falk, Armin Rosencranz, and Catherine Greene Burnett. Bob Calhoun from the Golden

Gate faculty was the director of the program. Professor Calhoun lived in Turkey many years ago when he was in the Peace Corps and still speaks some Turkish.

Three courses were offered and well attended: Introduction to Public International Law, International Environmental Law, and International Criminal Procedure. In addition to visits to the courts, the Judicial Council, and meetings with local scholars and officials, students soon learned that a short ferry ride was all that separated them from such exciting tourist sites as Topkapi, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and the Covered Bazaar. In addition, students took advantage of some long weekends to travel to other fascinating locations within the country. Students said highlights included the Aegean village of Bodrum (a current hot spot for young European summer travelers), and the exotic cave dwellings of Cappadocia in the eastern part of the country.

All in all, the program was a great success and Golden Gate will return to the University of Marmara this coming summer for "Istanbul, Part II."

THE NEW ISLAND NATION OF PALAU

In 1994, **Drew Bohan**, '90, became Legislative Counsel to the House of Delegates in the new Pacific island nation of Palau, located about 500 miles east of the Philippines. Through Drew's efforts, Golden Gate University School of Law was invited this past year to establish a student legislative extern program. The Palau legislature invited two law students per semester to serve with the Legislative Counsel's office. Drew, along with **Randy Riddle**, '85, who is Counsel to the Senate, are the two field supervisors in the program.

Professor Marc Stickgold designed a program for our students and serves as their faculty supervisor. The first two externs to go to Palau were **April Fisher**, class of '98, who served with the Senate, and **Erin McFadden**, '97, who served with the House of Delegates. Working directly with the legislators from January to June 1997, the students were responsible for drafting legislation, preparing testimony and research memoranda, and often steering pieces of legislation through the national legislature. Students worked on matters of crimi-




Left: April Fisher, class of '98, consults with Randy Riddle, '85, in the Senate chambers of the Palau National Congress.

Right: Erin McFadden, '97, and Drew Bohan, '90, enjoy the outdoors in Palau's capital, Koror.

nal law, real estate and development issues, fisheries, and — of particular interest to April and Erin — environmental matters. Both students loved their experience and have received numerous employment opportunities in the Pacific region. Both say, "I want to go back!"

This externship is not only an exciting one for the students, but part of the school's larger effort, in conjunction with the International and Comparative Law program, to develop ongoing projects throughout the world. For example,

we have just been invited to provide an extern in spring 1998 to a prestigious law firm in Bangkok, Thailand. Drew and Randy are 2 of more than 20 GGU alums who work and live in the Pacific islands. We have alums in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, Pohnpei, and elsewhere.

If you are a GGU alum who works or has connections abroad, and believe that you could assist in the development of projects such as the one in Palau, please contact Professor Marc Stickgold via e-mail at mstickgold@ggu.edu. 

Students in the summer program in Turkey explored Derinkuyu, a village in Cappadocia: inside an old Christian church (left) and in caves eight stories below the surface (right).



FACULTY BRIEFS



On April 12, Professor **Lani Bader** led a commercial arbitrator training session for

the members of the National Energy Panel of the American Arbitration Association. The panel, consisting of energy industry executives from throughout the U.S., met to learn about Dispute Resolution and the use of mediation and arbitration in the efficient resolution of energy disputes. At the annual ABA meeting in August, Professor Bader served on a panel that discussed the use of arbitration in consumer and securities disputes. On October 30, Professor Bader, with Nicole Dillingham, Esq., led a discussion at a meeting of the Arbitration Committee of the San Francisco Bar Association on the availability of provisional and interim remedies in arbitration.



Professor **Roger Bernhardt** has been appointed chair of the Legal Education

Committee of the Real Property, Probate & Trust Section of the ABA. Professor Bernhardt is the editor of the *CEB Real Property Law Reporter*. His column, "One Action or One Exception," appeared in the August issue.



Calhoun gave talks around the country. At a conference in Istanbul, he gave the welcoming address at a conference entitled, "The Problems of the United Nations in the 21st Century and Proposals for Solutions." This conference was jointly sponsored by Golden Gate University School of Law, the University of Marmara Law School, and South Texas College of Law. At a conference on Criminal Procedure and Judicial Control of Law Enforcement in Antalya, Turkey, he gave a speech on "Plea Bargaining in the United States and Turkey: An Analysis and Critique." Professor Calhoun also gave an address on American Legal Education at a symposium on Comparative Legal Education given by Istanbul's University of Marmara Law School.



Professor **Mort Cohen's** lawsuit against the city of San Francisco received a ruling in July. Federal judge

William H. Orrick ruled that the San Francisco Jail in San Bruno is unconstitutionally unsafe, and ordered the city to come up with a plan to remedy the myriad problems at the facility.

In addition to directing the summer program in Istanbul, Professor **Robert**

Adjunct Professor **Robert Goldman's** new book, *Legacy: Plan, Protect & Preserve Your Estate*, was published in January. Professor Goldman co-authored this book with two colleagues from the National Network of Estate Planning Attorneys.



Last spring Professor **Myron Mosovitz** moderated panels on landlord-tenant law at several northern

California locations for Continuing Education of the Bar. He is putting the finishing touches on second editions of his two books, *Cases and Problems in Criminal Procedure: The Police and Cases* and *Problems in Criminal Procedure: The Courtroom*. The new editions will be published by Matthew Bender in spring 1998.



In January Professor **Maria Ontiveros** was elected the Secretary of the Labor and

Employment Law section of the AALS. In February, she was asked to chair the ACLU of Northern California's ad hoc committee on Poverty and Civil Liberties. As part of her work on this committee she spoke at the ACLU of Northern California's Annual Activist Conference in September. Her topic was "Poverty and Civil Liberties: What's the Connection?"

On March 1, Professor Ontiveros spoke on "Organizing Immigrant Workers to Battle the Problems of Contingency" at a conference sponsored by the Workers Rights Project of the University of North Carolina School of Law. She also spoke in March on "International Dispute Resolution of Labor Conflicts" at the Seventh Annual Fulbright Symposium on International Legal Problems. In September, at the California State Bar Conference, she was on a "Recent Developments in Sexual Harassment" panel speaking on "Understanding the Race, Class, and Ethnicity Issues in 'Sexual Harassment' Cases."

This fall, Professor Ontiveros has been serving on the steering committee for the "Women in Legal Education: Gentlemen No More" summit sponsored by the Mills College Women's Leadership Institute and planned for November 20-22. Two of Professor Ontiveros's articles appear in the recently published anthology, *Critical Race Feminism*.



Professor **David Oppenheimer** spoke on affirmative action at law school conferences

at American University in Washington, D.C. and City University of New York. He has recently published articles in the *Golden Gate University Law Review*, *California Labor and Employment Law Quarterly*, *Daily Journal* and *San Francisco Examiner*.

He was named to the executive committee of the San Francisco Bay Area Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, and to the National Affirmative Action Organizing Committee of the Society of American Law Teachers. On October 24 he participated in a roundtable discussion of Proposition 209 convened by the Harvard Civil Rights Project. The participants, limited to 25 invitees, included professors of law, sociology, education, and journalism from Harvard, U.C., and GGU. In early November he participated in an international conference on affirmative action at Washington University in St. Louis. This conference, also by invitation only, was limited to 40 people and included law and social science faculty from the U.S., South Africa, and India. American schools were Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Chicago, Penn, Wisconsin, Texas, Iowa, and GGU.

Professor Oppenheimer will be on leave during the Spring 1998 semester, and will be a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall.




On March 17 Professor **Susan Rutberg** moderated a panel at Golden Gate called

"Why Do Criminal Defense?" On May 9, she spoke on a panel called "Public Interest Advocates: Cultivating the Next Generation" at the California State Bar 1997 Pro Bono/Legal Services Conference. In August she taught in California Attorneys for Criminal

Justice's bi-annual Trial Training seminar at Asilomar. On September 26 she hosted a Women Defender's welcome party for law students and new lawyers at her home in San Francisco. On October 8 she spoke at a National Lawyers' Guild program on a panel discussing the 1986 trial and acquittal of her client, former Guild chapter president Stephen Bingham.



This past summer, Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean **Sompong**

Sucharitkul taught three training seminar sessions on "Négociations des Instruments Internationaux" (Negotiations of International Legal Instruments) at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in the Peace Palace in The Hague, The Netherlands. The sessions were attended by legal officers, diplomats, and professors from fifteen countries in the francophone group. From October 13 to 17, he traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam to teach a course on "The Law of International Investments" to forty legal advisors and government officials from nine Southeast Asian countries and the People's Republic of China at the 26th External Program of The Hague Academy of International Law. 

PROFILE



Born in Kentucky, Baxter graduated from the University of Kentucky in the early 1960's. For seven years she taught English, speech, and drama to students in grades 7–12. “I never really wanted to be a school teacher,” she explains, “but at that time there were basically three careers open to working women. I could be a teacher, a social worker, or a nurse.”

Her life changed dramatically in 1970 after she moved to San Francisco when her husband took a faculty position at UCSF. “Moving here was a liberating experience,” she says. She immediately applied for a substitute teaching credential. “When it arrived, I looked at it, then tore it up and threw it away. I decided to go to law school.

Why did she choose law? “I was casting about for something. Actually, I’ve heard a lot of people say that’s why they went to law

JUDGE LEE BAXTER

One of the first things I notice walking into Judge Lee Baxter’s office is the set of law bookshelves with small troll dolls scattered among them. About five of these creatures decorate the judge’s chambers, providing an amusing juxtaposition with the judge’s formal legal library. Lee Baxter, class of 1974, is a study in contrasts as well — part spirited jurist, part “southern lady,” and part animal-photography enthusiast.

BY LORRI UNGARETTI

school. I knew that being a housewife and staying at home with two young children was not what I wanted to do. I did know that I had always wanted to be a lawyer.” She rolls her eyes. “But where I grew up, of course, only boys could do that.”

Baxter started at Golden Gate at the age of 31. She thought that she would be the oldest student here, but she found many other law students around her age, many of whom were starting second careers. She made great friends — especially among the small number of women in her class — and is in touch with many of them to this day. She loved law school and still divides her life into “Before Golden Gate” and “After Golden Gate.”

"Law school gave me the chance to have some identity aside from my husband's. He was an established professor at UCSF and I was 'his wife.' At GGU, I was me, and no one gave a hoot about him. And he was very supportive the whole time. He was thrilled that I was finding something for myself."

After graduating in 1974, Baxter went into private practice, taking on "anything that came down the road, except criminal cases." After seven years, she applied for Superior Court Commissioner and received the appointment.

"That was the best move I ever made," Baxter explains. "It set me on a path I never, even in my wildest dreams, anticipated."

For five years she spent most of her time sitting as a full-time judge on family and juvenile cases. "I found that I enjoyed judging more than practicing — and I felt that I was better at it."

About halfway through her commissioner years, people began encouraging Baxter to put her name in for a judgeship. Being a judge had not occurred to her before. In fact, when she was interviewed for commissioner, one judge warned her not to see the role as a stepping-stone to a judgeship. (While other counties routinely appointed commissioners to the bench, San Francisco never had.) This judge was to eat his words, however, when in 1987 Governor George Deukmejian appointed Baxter Municipal Court Judge. Her cases were mostly criminal, the one area of law with which she was unfamiliar. "I wanted to learn it," so she embraced the challenge.

In January 1992, Governor Wilson appointed Baxter Superior Court Judge. After she was sworn in she was named

the Presiding Judge for the Family Law Department. She spent two and one-half years in that role, then one year on civil trials. For the past two years, she has presided over felony trials.


Baxter serves on the Board of Trustees of Golden Gate University and as President of the San Francisco Lawyers Club Inns of Court. In 1991 she received Golden Gate University Law School's Judith G. McKelvey Outstanding Alumna of the Year Award for outstanding achievement in her field and her major contributions to the Law School. Last June she was awarded Golden Gate University's Amicus Award for significant contributions to the university. She is a past president of Queen's Bench, has served on the Boards of California Women Lawyers and San Francisco Lawyer's Club, and is the chair of the San Francisco Family Violence Council.

When she isn't on the bench, Baxter keeps busy, doing "anything that takes me away from a seated position in a windowless room." She loves to ski, jog, and scuba dive, and is presently taking flying lessons. She has traveled around the world to unusual places including Madagascar, southeast Asia, Indonesia, Borneo, and Thailand. She has visited 15 countries in Africa and is on the Board of Directors of Mkomazi, a game preserve in Tanzania. She combines her love of traveling with her favorite hobby, animal photography.

Baxter also spends a lot of time with her family and dogs. Her husband, John, accompanies her on many of her travels "as long as they don't involve scuba diving." For the diving trips, she takes along her daughters Leslie, who is pursuing an MBA, and Gillian, who is a drug sales

representative at Bristol-Squibb. Gillian is married to Golden Gate Law School graduate Mark Burton, class of 1995.

When it's time to take Judge Baxter's picture, I hesitatingly mention the troll dolls. She laughs and explains that she doesn't collect them — they were given to her when she worked in Family Court. They entertained the children during adoption proceedings. Somehow she has never gotten around to removing them, and one of them (with chewed-up feet) is now her dog's toy.

As Judge Baxter smiles for the camera, I think about this extraordinary woman who has moved from a highly traditional Southern milieu to a judicial bench in San Francisco and who embraces the world outside the court by spending time with her family, scuba diving, traveling around the world, and taking pictures of wild animals in Africa. 

One of Lee Baxter's many hobbies is photographing animals. She shot these gorillas in the Virunga Mountains in Congo.



Class Notes

continued from page 13

also in the group's folk dance company and performed in Munich, Germany last December. "I practice law when I'm not dancing!" he writes.

Michael D. Schindler (89) is in the Tax Accounting/Real Estate Tax Consulting Division of Ernst & Young in New York City.

1 9 9 0 s

Thomas Burns (90) was named Attorney of the Year by the Aids Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) last December.

Nora Rousso (90) is in her eighth year at McManis, Faulkner & Morgan in San Jose. She and her husband became first-time parents on October 31, 1996, when their daughter Eden was born.

Geoffrey L. Thorpe (90 LL.M.) has become the Deputy Attorney General with the Idaho State Tax Commission in Boise, ID.

Robert Turnbull (91) received the 1996 "Spirit of Hawaii Lawyers Care — Neighbor Island" Award for his *pro bono* work.

Elissa C. Elliott (92) died on September 28, 1997, after an eleven-month battle against leukemia. Ms. Elliott lived most recently in northern Virginia where she was an attorney advisor for the Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Social Security Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals. Ms. Elliott's son, Kevin, also attended Golden Gate University School of Law in 1991. He predeceased his mother in April 1996. Condolences may be sent to Mrs. Frances Elliott c/o Alicia Park, 3136 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110.

Scott Kline (92) joined Coblenz, Cahen, McCabe & Breyer as an

associate. He was previously a corporate and securities associate in the San Francisco office of Brown & Wood.

Scott T. Temby (92) is working for O'Rourke & Gardiner, LLC in Midvale, Utah.

Julie Hammel Brook (93) and her husband Danny welcomed their child, Zev Shalom Hammel Brook, into their family on November 9, 1996.

Darcy Inman (93) is a technical recruiter at an international recruiting firm. She has bought a home in Danville with Geoff Talbot, and they own a Dalmatian named Snoop.

A. T. Kippes (93) was appointed to the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare for a second two-year term by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She is also teaching a workshop, "Legal Essentials of Starting a Business," for Alumnae Resources, a San Francisco organization providing services to people seeking to begin, advance, or change their careers.

Paul Leone (93) is staff attorney with INVESCO Funds Group in Denver, where he is responsible for drafting regulatory filings and other documents for the company's mutual fund complex.

Warren E. McBroom (93) is assistant general counsel for the United States Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington, DC.

Adam Miller (93) is a deputy attorney general for the State of California Department of Justice Office in San Francisco.

Hanni Calhoun Perella (93) gave birth to triplet boys — Lorenzo, Emilio, and Alessio — on February 7, 1997.

Carrie Lynne Ransome (93) and Timothy Charles Smith (93) were married on January 4, 1997. The couple lives in Pleasant Hill.

Richard Schulke (93) has been appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to chair the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare.

Kevin Bell's (94) article, "The Sphere of Application of the Vienna Convention on Contracts for the International Sales of Goods," was published in the winter 1996 *Pace International Law Review*. Kevin is working in Moscow as the Information Officer at the international firm Clifford Chance.

Song Hill (94) received a promotion and is now the supervising attorney for the Motions Staff at the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

Kevin Hunsaker (94) is an associate in the Menlo Park firm of Littler Mendelson, focusing on litigation and appellate matters.

Claire A. Williams (94) opened her own San Francisco law office in 1997 after working for two years with Adams & Romer. Her practice is limited to adoptions and guardianship.

Kevin Bell (LL.M. 95)
See his listing in 1994.

Vicki Clark (95) has landed her "dream job": staff attorney with the Environmental Defense Center in Santa Barbara.

Cheresh Finer (95) is working as a tax associate for Coopers & Lybrand, LLP. She is currently working toward her LL.M. in Tax at Golden Gate.

Edmund Gee (95) was appointed by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno to serve as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in Fresno, CA.

Kleigh Hathaway (95) is a criminal defense attorney with Nolan & Armstrong in Palo Alto, CA.

Ann Maley (95) has been working for the Law Office of Lucius A. Cooper in San Ramon since November 1996.

Susan Kawala (95) is a deputy attorney general in the Torts and Condemnation Section, California Department of Justice, in Los Angeles. Previously she worked for a small personal injury firm.

Gigi Kennedy McCone (95) is working as an associate in the Walnut Creek office of Miller, Starr & Regalia.

Eric M. Strong (95) accepted an associate position with Thomas, Mort, Prosser & Knudsen, LLP, in Riverside, CA. He practices business and environmental litigation.

Vince Tassinari's (95) amicus brief, "Equitable Tolling of the Tax Refund Statute," was accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *U.S. v. Brockamp*. Mr. Tassinari is presently earning an LL.M. in Intellectual Property at John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

Sharon A. Anolik (96) is a staff attorney at the California Supreme Court, Civil Central Staff.

Rob Bae (96) joined Matthew Bender & Co. as legal editor in June 1997.

Marlys Bergstrom (96) is an associate attorney with Deloitte & Touche in the firm's Multi-state Tax Department in San Jose. She is currently working toward her LL.M. in Tax at Golden Gate.

Benjamin J. Domagas (LL.M. 96) has been admitted to the State Bar of Texas, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, and the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals.

Sherry Hawn (LL.M. 96) is in the International Tax division at Coopers & Lybrand, LLP in San Francisco.

Dierk Herbermann (96) has accepted a position as corporate counsel for Autodesk, Inc. in San Rafael.

Caren Jenkins (96) accepted a position with Thorndal, Armstrong & Balkenbush in Las Vegas. She was previously a staff attorney with the Nevada Supreme Court.

Andrea Marcus (96) is the executive director of the 23rd National Conference on Women and the Law, a conference for women in the legal field to be held March 19-22, 1998, in San Francisco.

Nancy L. Mathis (96) has become an associate with Reed, Elliott, Creech & Roth in San Jose.

Karen Milligan (96) is a research attorney with the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit in San Francisco.

Beth Ring (96) accepted a position with the Solano County District Attorney's Office in March.

Adam Blake Ryan (96) is an attorney in the offices of McGlynn & McGlynn in Red Bluff, CA.

Gregory E. Simonian (96) writes, "Shortly after receiving successful Bar results, I accepted a litigation associate position with the law firm of O'Flaherty & Belugum, a well regarded southern California defense firm which specializes in the areas of medical malpractice, staff privileges, employment contracts, wrongful discharge, insurance coverage, workers' compensation and administrative law." He works with one of the firm's medical malpractice defense teams that represents local hospitals, health care organizations, and individual physicians.

Brian Soriano (96) is an associate in the San Francisco firm Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad, Gibson & Harris.

Vince Tassinari (LL.M. 96)
See his listing in 1995.

Traci Fujita Villarosa (96) has been working as deputy corporation counsel for the County of Maui since August 1996. She practices various areas of civil law including administrative, land use, environmental, and litigation.

Anne Yen (96) was hired by the East Bay plaintiffs' employment law firm of Lucius A. Cooper.

Carl Adams-Duma (97) is an associate at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe in San Francisco.

Kimberly Cluff (97) is a legal fellow with the California Indian Legal Services in Oakland.

Timothy Critzer (97) joined the U.S. Department of Labor Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration as an investigator.

Daphne Edwards (97) just passed the North Carolina Bar and is enjoying her clerkship with a justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Philip Falese (LL.M. 97) is a tax consultant with the Law Offices of Victor Moses in Inglewood, CA.

Joseph Gonzalez (97) is the staff attorney in the Los Angeles office of Citizens for a Better Environment.


Jeffrey Green (97) is an associate with the Seattle office of Graham & James, LLP.

Joseph Meckes (97) is an associate with the San Francisco office of Graham & James, LLP.

Lisa Nahmanson (97) has been hired to do contract work for a San Francisco plaintiffs' employment lawyer.

Carmen Naranjo (97) is working with the tax division of Arthur Andersen, LLP.

Michelle Smith (97) is a law clerk at the National Labor Relations Board in Oakland.

Laura Zeigler (97) is working as a law clerk in the Law Offices of David Hollander. 

CLASSAction

Class Notes Deadlines: March 15, September 15

Please let us know when you have moved so that we will have your current address.

If you have news for **ClassAction** we would like to hear from you.

Mail to:
Debra Holcomb
Golden Gate University
School of Law
536 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
FAX: 415-543-6680
E-mail: dholcomb@ggu.edu

Name: _____ Class Year _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date _____

Home phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____

Firm/Organization _____ Position _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

News Item _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

Judges' Reception
February 19

Women in Law Conference
March 19-22
(Civic Auditorium,
San Francisco)

**Mike DeVito's
Retirement Luncheon**
April 21 (See page 4)

Graduation Awards Banquet
May 14

Graduation
May 16

State Bar Alumni Reception
October 1-4 (Monterey)

For more information on
these events, contact Debra
Holcomb at (415) 442-6608
or via e-mail at
dholcomb@ggu.edu

CLASS OF 1997 COMMENCEMENT MAY 24, 1997

192 J.D. Graduates, 45 LL.M. in Taxation, and 50 LL.M. in International Legal Studies



**Left: Gina Travaglio
and Jennifer Levy**



**Right: Richard K.
Grosboll, '81, accepting
the Judith G. McKelvey
Award for Outstanding
Achievement by an
Alumnus**



**Left: Matt
Pachkowski, former
Law School Assistant
Dean for Admissions**



**Right: Mamie Wong
and family**



**Left: LL.M. in Taxation
graduates Preston De
Jean and Angela Lockett**



**Right: Commencement
speaker Justice Ming W.
Chin of the California
Supreme Court (center)
with Associate Dean
Sompong Sucharitkul
(left) and Dean Anthony
Pagano**

CLASSACTION

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